(v) Independent appraisal by professional institutions including IITs and IIMs and Agricultural Universities.

(vi) Independent Monitoring by NLM.

(vii) ICT based MIS to make data available to public scrutiny, inclusive of Job Cards, employment demanded and allocated, days worked, Muster Rolls, shelf of works, Funds available/spent and fund to various implementing agencies, Social Audit findings, registering grievances and generating alerts for corrective action.

(viii) Periodic reviews with State Governments.

(ix) National Helpline now being upgraded to ICT based network of national helpline. Toll free Helpline No. is 1800110707.

(x) To cover gaps in financial services and outreach and also to ensure greater transparency in wage disbursement, Rural ATM, hand held devices, smart cards, biometrics have been initiated.

Survey of implementation of NREGA

582. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey to find out to what percentage of the maximum requirement laid down under the NREGA per individual have been met in different States and Union Territories during the last three years and the current year so far;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof; and

(c) the per individual payment of wages there under?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No such survey has been conducted by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Average wage paid per personday during 2006-07 was Rs.65; during 2007-08 was Rs.75, during 2008-09 was Rs.84 and during the current year (upto October, 2009) is Rs.88.

NREGS in drought affected districts

583. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in nearly 200 of the country's 600 districts affected by drought, Government plans to fall back on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to provide relief to people in the affected areas;

(b) whether an 11-member expert committee has been set up to clear the obstructions of Government's approach for widening the NREGS;

(c) whether NREGS would fulfil aim of providing minimum livelihood support to drought affected families; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision will be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) This Ministry has issued advisories to drought-affected States to meet employment demand in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(b) There had been no obstructions to the Government's approach for widening the scope of NREGS. So no 11 member expert committee has been set up to clear obstructions.

(c) and (d) Aim of NREGA is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household for doing unskilled manual work on demand. Draught affected households can avail of employment provided under NREGA.

Merging of rural schemes

584. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to merge all rural schemes into one comprehensive district plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Modification in NREGS

585. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has felt that there is an urgent need to remove the limit of 100 days limitation under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme(NREGS) in view of the drought situation in the county;

(b) whether Government is committed to ensure to pay at least Rs.100 per day as minimum wages under NREGS; and

(c) if so, what efforts it made to achieve the above objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) NREGA is demand based. The Act provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of wage